

## Claims

We claim:

1. A mounting bracket for securing a plank to a joist, said mounting bracket comprising:
  - 5 a separating flange;
  - a joist-fastening portion connected to said separating flange, said joist-fastening portion having a hole therein for receiving a fastener for fastening said mounting bracket to the joist;
  - a support flange connected to said joist-fastening portion; and
  - 10 a plank-fastening portion connected to said support flange.
2. The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein said plank-fastening portion has a hole therein for receiving a fastener for fastening said mounting bracket to the plank.
- 15 3. The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein said joist-fastening portion extends from said separating flange at an angle of approximately 90°.
4. The mounting bracket of claim 1, wherein said support flange has a hole therein corresponding to said hole in said joist-fastening portion.
- 20 5. The mounting bracket of claim 4 wherein said hole in said support flange is aligned with said hole in said joist-fastening portion.
6. The mounting bracket of claim 1 wherein said separating flange and said  
25 plank-fastening portion are substantially co-planar.

7. The mounting bracket of claim 1 wherein said support flange extends from said joist-fastening portion at an angle of approximately 35 degrees.

5 8. A mounting bracket assembly for mounting a plank to a joist, comprising:  
a separating flange for placement between the plank and the joist; a joist-  
securing flange adjacent said separating flange, wherein said joist-securing flange is  
capable of being secured to the joist; a support flange adjacent said joist-securing  
flange; and, a plank-securing flange supported by said support flange, wherein said  
10 plank-securing flange is capable of being secured to the plank

9. The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a fastener for securing said joist-  
securing flange to said joist.

15 10. The assembly of claim 9 wherein said securing means is selected from the  
group consisting of a screw, a nail or a bolt.

11. The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a fastener for securing said plank-  
securing flange to said plank.

20 12. The assembly of claim 11 wherein said securing means is selected from the  
group consisting of a screw, a nail or a bolt.

13. The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a spacer portion between said  
25 plank-securing flange and said support flange.

14. The assembly of claim 13 wherein said spacer portion is curved.
15. A method of securing a plank to a joist comprising the steps of:
  - 5 providing a mounting bracket having a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, said second portion being positioned between said first and third portions;
  - placing said first portion of said mounting bracket between a top surface of the joist and a plank;
  - 10 securing said second portion of said mounting bracket to a side surface of the joist; and,
  - securing said third portion of said mounting bracket to the plank.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein said second portion of said mounting bracket  
15 is secured to said side surface of said joist with a fastener.
17. The method of claim 15 wherein said third portion of said mounting bracket is secured to said plank with a fastener.